LT2 Lab QA State and EPA Regional Participation Process

The purpose of evaluating applications for the Laboratory Quality Assurance (Lab QA) Program is to identify State and EPA Regional laboratories that can reliably measure the occurrence of *Cryptosporidium* in surface water using EPA Method 1622 and/or EPA Method 1623. While this program is voluntary, participating laboratories must: 1) have the equipment required in EPA Method 1622 and/or EPA Method 1623; 2) have experienced personnel; and 3) successfully complete an initial demonstration of capability. The laboratory, personnel, and demonstration criteria are specified in the application cover letter.

EPA will consider evaluation of the State and EPA Regional laboratories on a case-by-case basis, resources permitting. All interested State and EPA Regional laboratories may contact the laboratory approval manager regarding application submission.

Steps for State and EPA Regional Laboratories to participate:

- **Step 1. Contact Lab Approval Manager**
  Carrie Miller, Manager, *Cryptosporidium* Laboratory Approval Program
  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Technical Support Center
  26 West Martin Luther King Dr. (MS-140)
  Cincinnati, Ohio 45268
  fax number, (513) 569-7191
  e-mail address: miller.carrie@epa.gov

- **Step 2. Application**
  The EPA may evaluate State and EPA Regional laboratory applications, to the extent resources permit, for sufficient equipment, experience, and demonstration of capability. Any deficiencies should be corrected before proceeding to the next step in the evaluation process.
  - Application Cover Letter (PDF 4 p, 23 K)
  - Application Package (PDF 16 p, 98 K)

- **Step 3. Initial proficiency test**
  After an application has been accepted, the laboratory will be sent a set of eight initial proficiency test (IPT) samples consisting of a suspension of oocysts in a concentrated matrix. Laboratories will resuspend these spikes in reagent water to produce simulated source water samples and analyze the samples using the version of Method 1622/1623 that the laboratory plans to use for routine *Cryptosporidium* analyses. If a laboratory wishes to be evaluated for more than one version of the method, the laboratory will receive a set of eight IPT samples for each version. Laboratory IPT data will be evaluated against mean recovery and precision (as relative standard deviation) criteria for the IPT samples.

- **Step 4. On-site evaluation**
  After a laboratory passes the IPT and has documented the required capability to participate in the Lab QA Program through the completed application, an on-site evaluation of the laboratory will be scheduled. The on-site evaluation will include two separate, but concurrent, assessments: (1) assessment of the laboratory's sample processing and analysis procedures, including microscopic examination; and (2) evaluation of the laboratory's personnel qualifications, quality assurance and quality control, equipment, and record keeping procedures. After a laboratory has corrected any deficiencies noted in the audit, they will be granted approval, and then will be listed with other laboratories that have passed the on-site evaluation on this site.
  - List of approved laboratories

- **Step 5. On-going Proficiency Test**
  EPA will evaluate on-going precision and recovery data to determine if the laboratory continues to meet the performance criteria of the Laboratory QA Program. Laboratories in the program will receive a set of three ongoing proficiency test samples approximately every four months that must be analyzed in the same manner as the IPT samples.